(b) if so, the details thereof and number of applications received for shifting of telephones;

(c) the number out of these shifted alongwith the time in which shifted during 1996, till date;

(d) whether any office/staff was found guilty for doing the job after prescribed period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The norms are seven days for local shift and fifteen days for inter-exchange shift. The number of applications received for shifting of telephones is 43619 during 1996 as on 30.6.1996.

(c) The number of telephone shifted within the norms are 34143 during 1996, as on 30.6.1996. The cases pending for shift of telephone are due to :

(i) technically non-feasible area;

(ii) pending due to subscribers reasons.

(iii) rainy season.

(d) No, Sir. The officer/staff is not guilty for doing the job within norms on account of the reasons given in (c) above.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

Transfer/Rectification/OB

2521. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit has been fixed as per the new scheduled by Delhi Telecom Circle for (i) rectifying the telephone defect; (ii) for transferring telephone connection from one zone to another in Delhi; (iii) for installation of new telephone connections after the issue of O.B. numbers; and (iv) issue of O.B. numbers and installation of telephone from out of the quota of Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Time limit/ norms fixed are:

(i) for telephone fault rectification - 48 hours.

(ii) for shifting of telephone from one zone to another - 15 days;

(iii) for installation of new telephone connection after issue of OBs - 15 days.

(iv) for out of turn cases from MPs quota, the OBs are issued on Priority and the installation of telephone is carried out almost immediately except in cases where the area is technically non-feasible.

Distribution of Essential Commodities

2522. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the tact that irregularities and partialities take place while distributing the essential commodities through Fair Price Shops to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the regular and impartial supply of essential commodities to Schedules Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor people?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). No such instances have been brought to the notice of Government. The implementation of Public Distribution System including distribution to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and the poor is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Arrears of Telephone Bills

2523. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Division, Kalyan has not received due arrears of Telephone bills to the tune of Rs.18 crores from subscribers;

(b) if so, the details of due arrears of each exchange; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to recover the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The information has been called for and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Pending Proposals

2524. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from producers/directors belonging to Orissa to produce serials/telefilms under sponsored and commissioned programme on the National Channel of Doordarshan during the last three years;

(b) out of the proposals thus received how many were accepted and the action being taken to dispose of the pending proposals;

(c) whether the Directotate, Doordarshan inform the proposer the precise reason of rejection of any proposal, if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) State-wise details of proposals are not maintained.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As a matter of policy, reasons of rejection of proposals at the concept stage are not intimated to the producers.

Electronic Cross Bar Exchanges in Assam

2525. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Electro-Mechanical and cross bar Exchanges functioning in Assam at present;

(b) whether these exchanges have completed their life of 15 years;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to replace them with electronic exchanges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) At present five electronic-mechanical exchanges are functioning in Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) All the electromechanical exchanges are proposed to be replaced by electronic exchanges during 1996-97 as details below.

1.	Guwahati	-	4800 Lines
2.	Rangia	-	200 Lines
3.	Duliajan	-	300 Lines
4.	Digboi	-	300 Lines
5.	Namrup	-	200 Lines

Labours in Tea Garden in Assam

2526. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the social security schemes in a big way for the tea garden labourers in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Tea Plantation labour is already covered under the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Maternity Benefits Act, and the Payment of Gratuity Act. For PF and other benefits they are covered under the Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund Act. The medical care and certain other facilities are provided under the Plantation Labour Act. There is no concrete proposal to make any further expansion of the existing social security schemes exclusively for the tea garden labourers.

Policy on Aviation

2527. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is in the midst of formulating a comprehensive policy on aviation inorder to remove certain ambiguities in the existing one as well as give a boost to the booming industry;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the announcement is likely to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Aviation policy is evolved/amended on a continuing basis, keeping in view the experience gained and requirements of trade, commerce/travel & tourism.

Inclusion of Certain Communities in STs List

2528. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamang, Limbu and Rai/ Kirat castes from amongst the Nepali/Gorkha community are demanding for their inclusion in Scheduled Tribes List;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering their cases positively; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received for the inclusion of the Tamang, Limbu and Kirati Khambu (Rai) communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, and are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Investment by I.T.D.C. in Delhi based establishments

2529. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested by the India Tourism Development Corporation in its Delhi based